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THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (a) & (b) No repairs were carried out to the canal for the past many years due to the uneconomic nature of the work. The Chief Engineer has, however, been asked to examine whether traffic is appreciable in the canal and whether it will justify the cost involved in taking up the work."

Higher Elementary School for Karuvarakkundu

* 1162 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) how many petitions the District Educational Officer, Kozhikode, Malabar, has received from Sri T. K. Gopalan, Karuvarakkundu, Ernad taluk, Malabar since 1952, requesting the Government to open a Higher Elementary School at Karuvarakkundu ; and

(b) the action taken by the Government on these petitions, if any?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (a) & (b) It is not the policy of the Government to open elementary schools. The hon. Member apparently refers to permission that the Education Department has to give to open such schools. It is reported that the proposal to open a Higher Elementary school at Karuvarakkundu was received late in the office of the Divisional Inspector of Schools, Coimbatore, and that the proposal was deferred. The proposal, if received in time next year in the office of the Divisional Inspector of Schools, will be considered on its merits."

Jassid attack on paddy crops.

* 1163 *Q.*—SRI K. ARANGANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) the steps taken by the Government to check, prevent and cure the jassid attack on paddy crops;

(b) the experiments conducted and the results thereof ; and

(c) the cheapest and the most effective treatment suggested by Government?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (a) to (c) The information required by the hon. Member is given in the statement[a] placed on the table of the House."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—" There is only one Plant Protection Officer in each district and with the large-scale jassid attack on paddy crops, these officers are not able to go round all the taluks and bring the attack under control. The number of sprayers available in the Taluk Demonstrator's office is very little

[a] Printed as Appendix I on pages 173–174 infra.

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and it is complained that they are out of order. May I know the steps taken by the Government to see that all these defects are rectified?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" It is not merely the Plant Protection Officer but also the Demonstrators that are expected to go round in order to advise the ryots regarding prevention as well as treatment of such diseases. As for sprayers, I have already answered that the Government have purchased more sprayers for distribution among the various depots."

SRI S. PANCHAKSHARAM :—" Is this pest attack common all over the State or is it peculiar only to some districts in the State?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" There are various kinds of pests and these pests do come in frequently."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" May I know whether this is a mapor pest or a minor pest, ferocious or mild pest?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I do not have that kind of research mind and I have not gone into that aspect."

Reservoir for irrigation purposes in Malabar.

* 1164 *Q.*—SRI K. MADHAVAN NAMBIAR (on behalf of Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have conducted any survey of the possibilities of forming artificial lakes in Malabar fit for irrigational purposes; and

(*b*) if so, with what result?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) The execution of the Malampuzha, Walayar and Mangalam Reservoir Projects has already been taken up and the works are in progress. The question of taking up three other reservoir projects, i.e., Kanhirapuzha, Meenakarai and Palakazhipuzha, is under consideration."

Bhavanagar Maharaja Tuberculosis Fund

* 1165 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) how the Government have spent money out of the Bhavanagar Maharaja Tuberculosis Fund; and

(*b*) how many Tuberculosis patients received relief from this Fund?